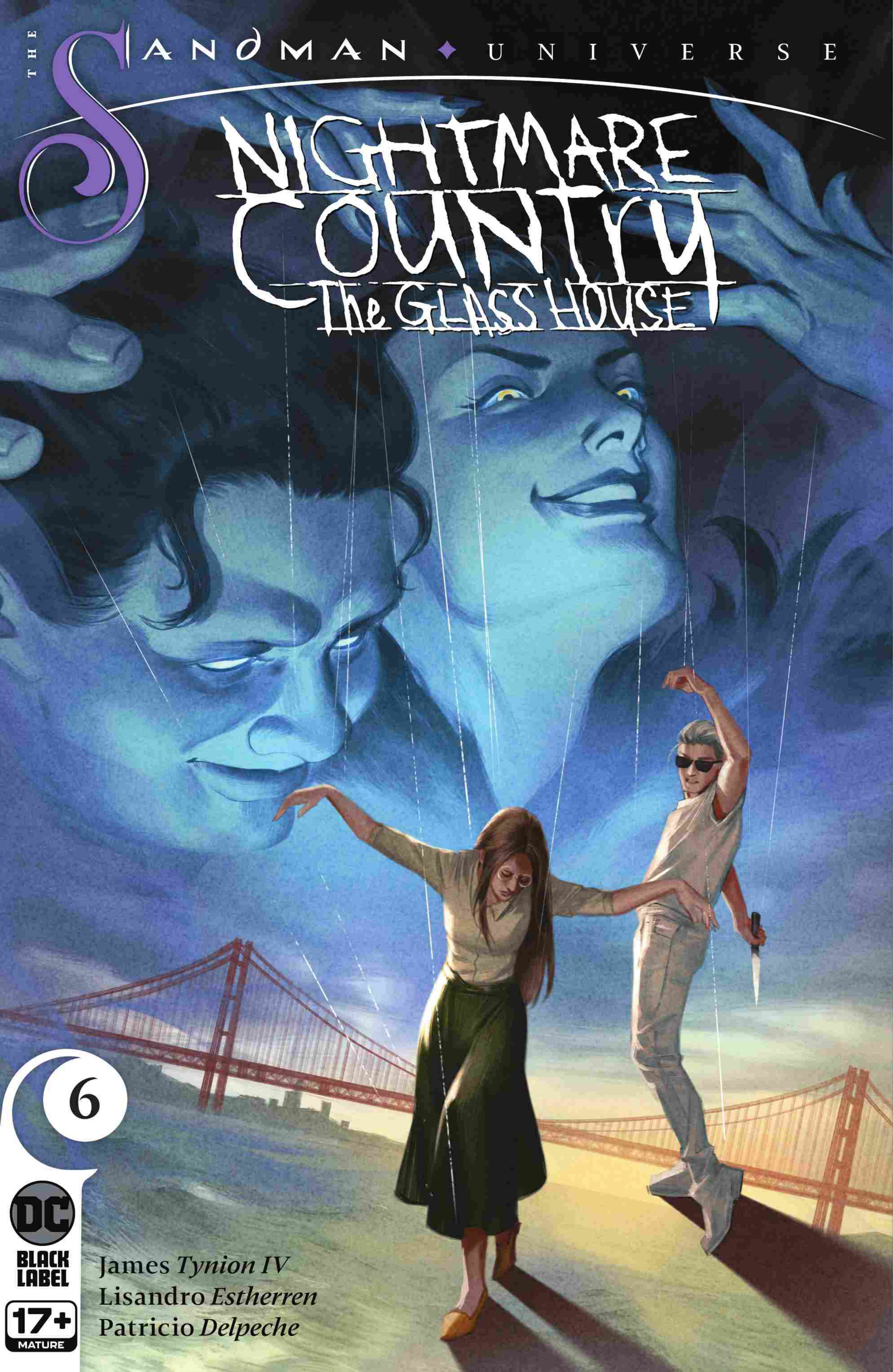


THE

MAN • U N I V E R S E

NIGHTMARE COUNTRY The GLASS HOUSE



6

DC

BLACK
LABEL

17+
MATURE

James Tynion IV
Lisandro Estherren
Patricio Delpeche

HE'S GOT EVERYTHING HE EVER WANTED.
NOW HE WANTS MORE.

KNEEL BEFORE ZOD

© & TM DC.

WRITTEN BY
**JOE
CASEY**

ART BY
**DAN
McDARIO**

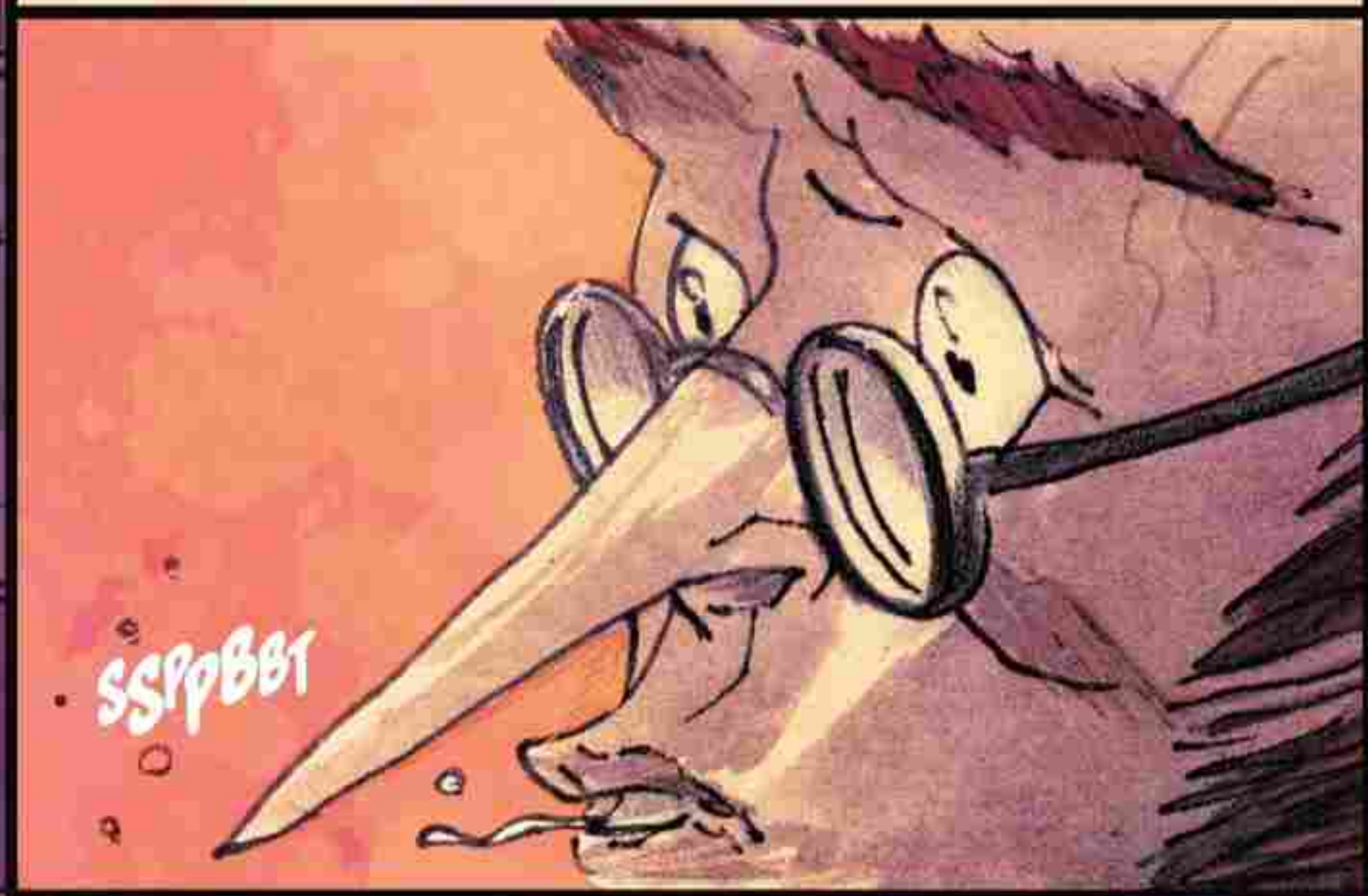
COVER BY
**JASON
SHAWN
ALEXANDER**



THE MOST BRUTAL
NEW SERIES
OF THE YEAR
STARTS IN
JANUARY



I don't know
Thessaly pushes the
«Okay, then. Right into
«Lets find out» she





MY LORD!



I'M AFRAID THE CORINTHIAN IS TRYING TO **KILL** AGAIN, IN DEFIANCE OF YOUR COMMAND.

MS. MADISON FLYNN IS TRYING TO PREVENT HIM.



YOU ARE GOING TO NEED TO INTERVENE.



I am well aware, Lucien. Thank you.

I've been following along.



I'd appreciate you *continuing* to keep an eye on things, should there be developments that require quick decisions.



MY LORD...?

I appreciated you pulling Madison Flynn out of harm's way, Lucien.

But there are elements of this at play that it's best you *don't* know.

At least for now.



AH. WELL...



...I'LL... LEAVE YOU TO IT.

I DON'T GET IT, BOSS.



IF YOU WANTED TO MAKE A PLAY HERE, WHY NOT JUST ACT *BEFORE?*



Rules are important, Matthew.



OKAY,
SURE.

YOU LOVE
RULES. I LOVE
RULES. HERE IN
THIS NONSENSE
PLACE WE ALL
LOVE RULES.

Without
rules, a story has
no *structure*, and it
becomes all too apparent
that *any* word can mean
anything in the right
context.

That
anything can happen
at any time. That
existence is chaos.
Random.

Few can
grapple with that. So
they seek *meaning*.
And *my* power *exists*
within that
meaning.



Making *anything* happen draws attention in and of itself. Why *would* I break the rules? Who am I moving *against* in breaking the rules? *Why?*

But, if you've set a trigger in place, when you are allowed to make just *about* anything happen, then you *are* allowed to make anything happen.

Yes, Matthew.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

And the *reason* anything is happening is because you *set* that trigger.

...THIS IS JUST WEIRD SHIT BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CREEPY SIBLINGS, HUH?



Lord Azazel
rejected my
hospitality once
before. Let's see
what happens
when I reject
his.

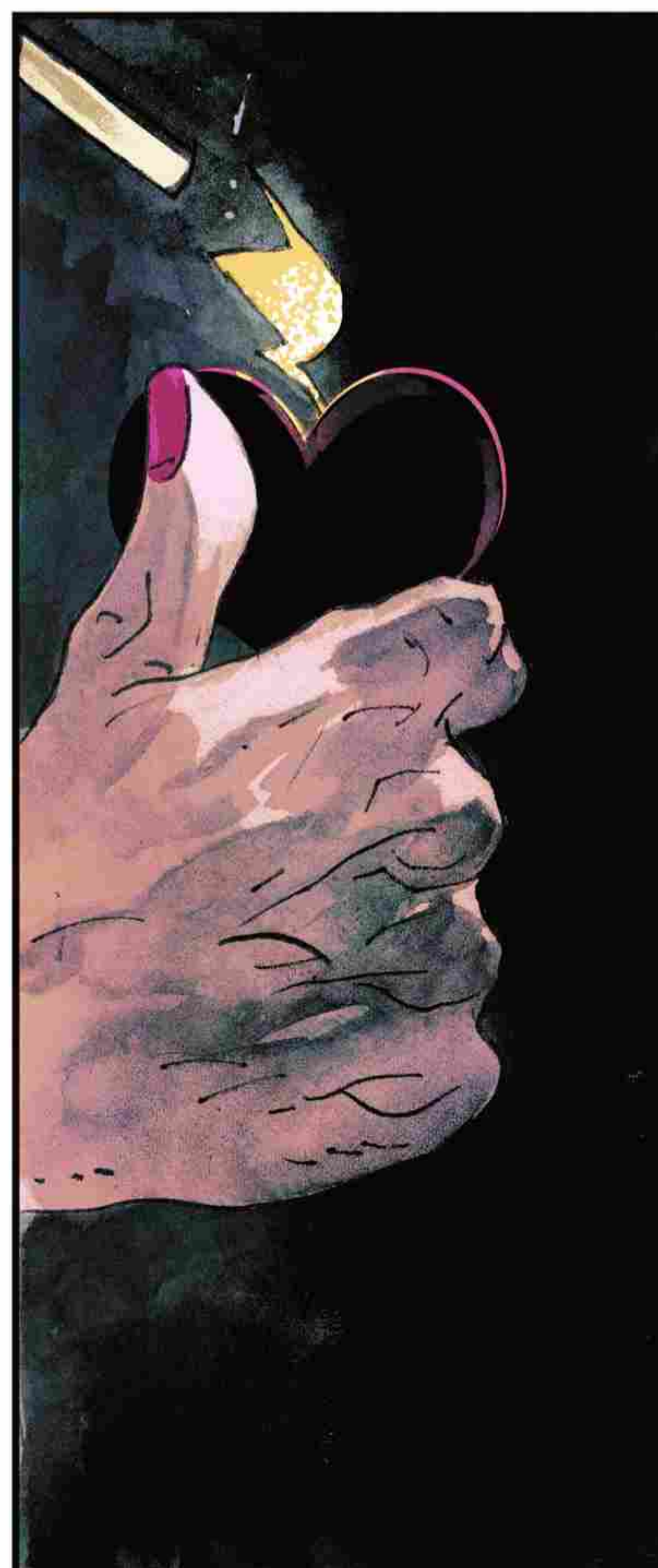
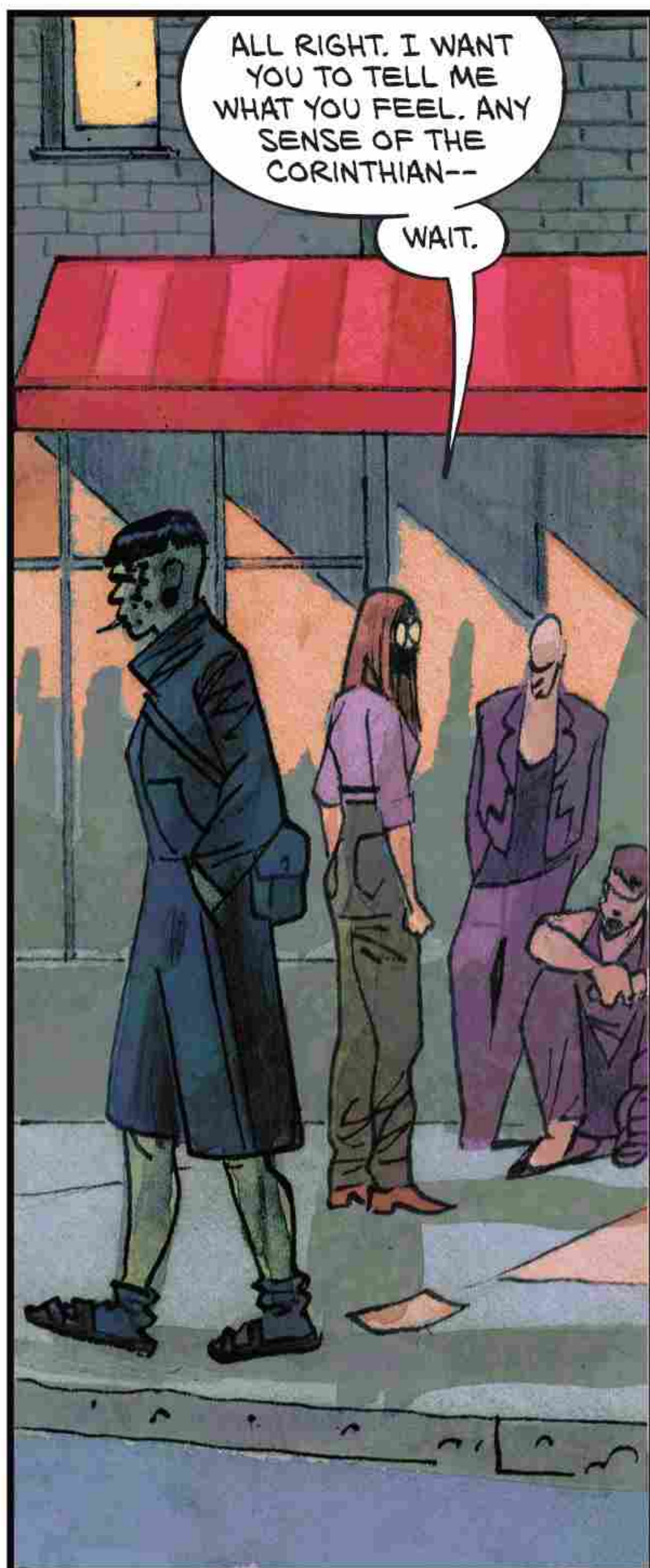
First, I
think we move
the *pieces* a
bit closer
together.

And then
we enter the
scene.

I DON'T
REALLY WANT TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE
CAPABLE OF DOING IF
YOU DECIDE YOU'RE
ALLOWED TO DO IT,
DO I?

No,
Matthew.

I don't
think you
do.



THE

SANDMAN ♦ UNIVERSE

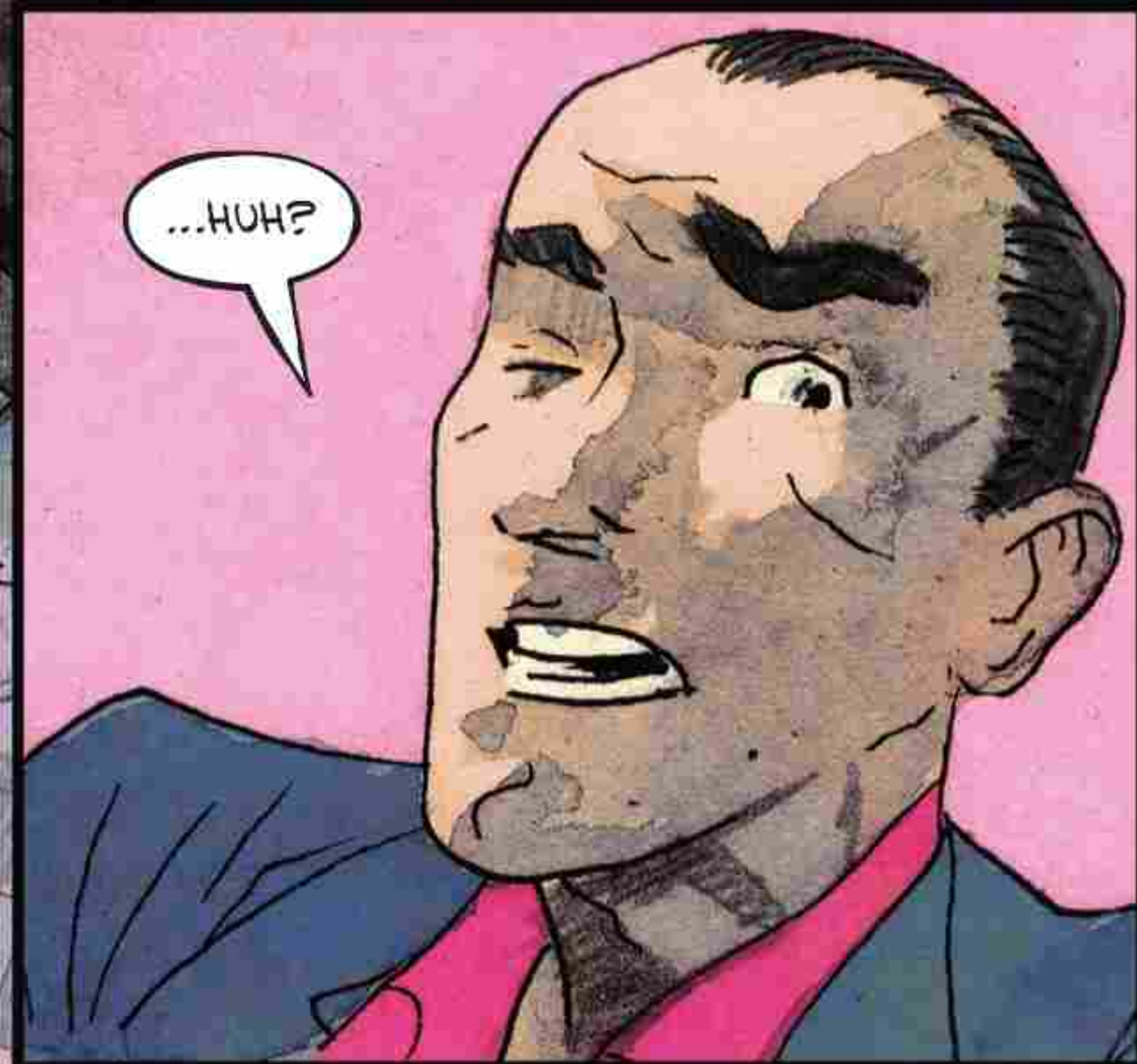
NIGHTMARE COUNTRY The GLASS HOUSE

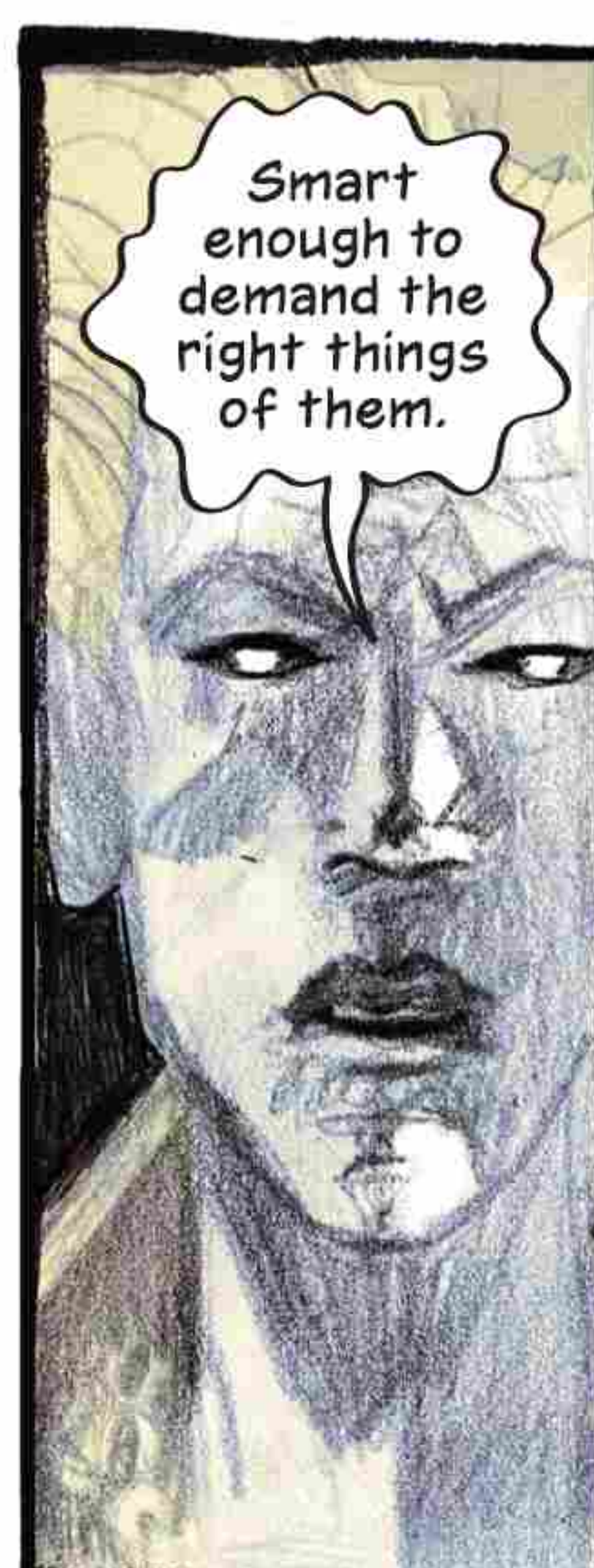
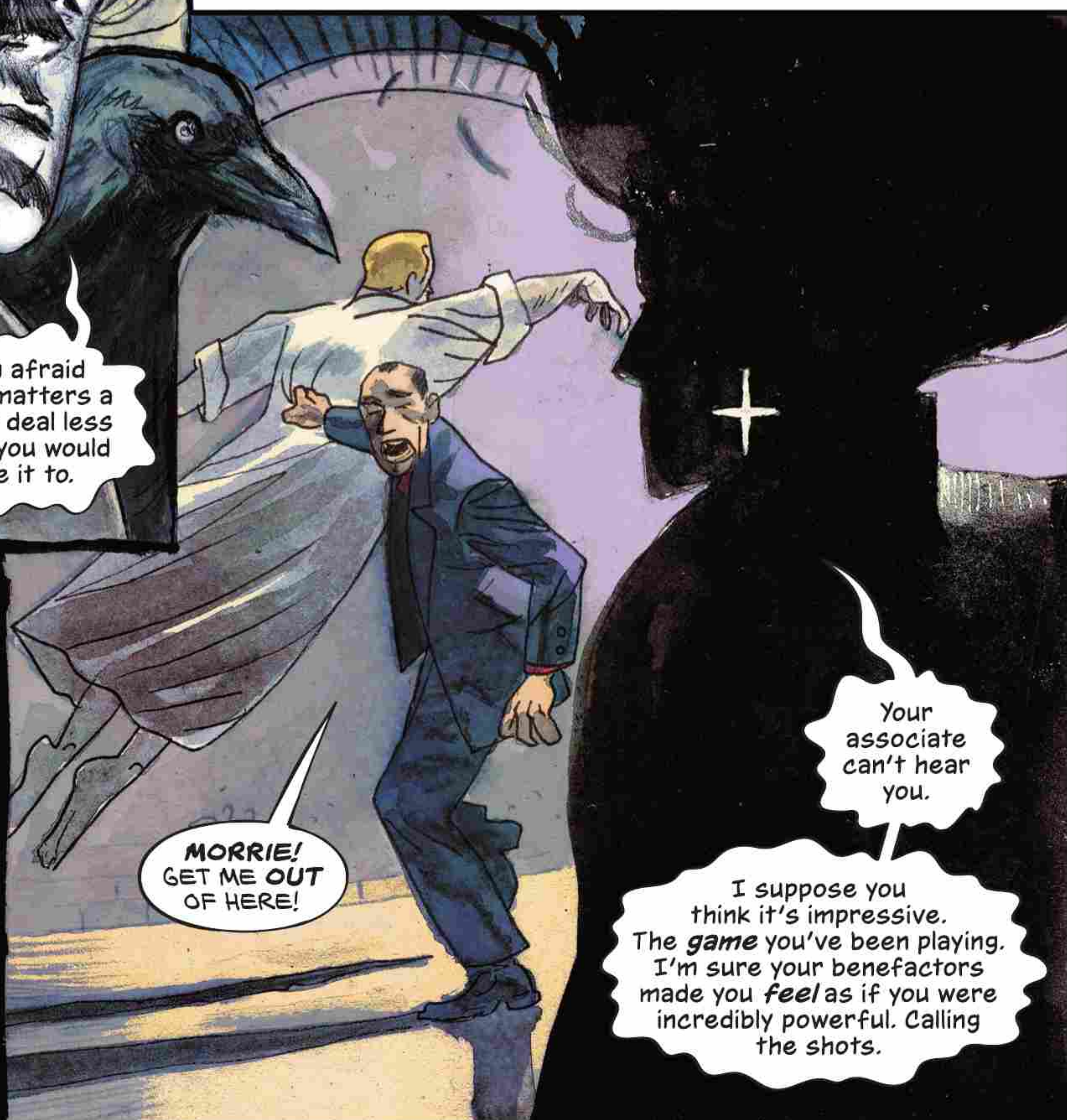
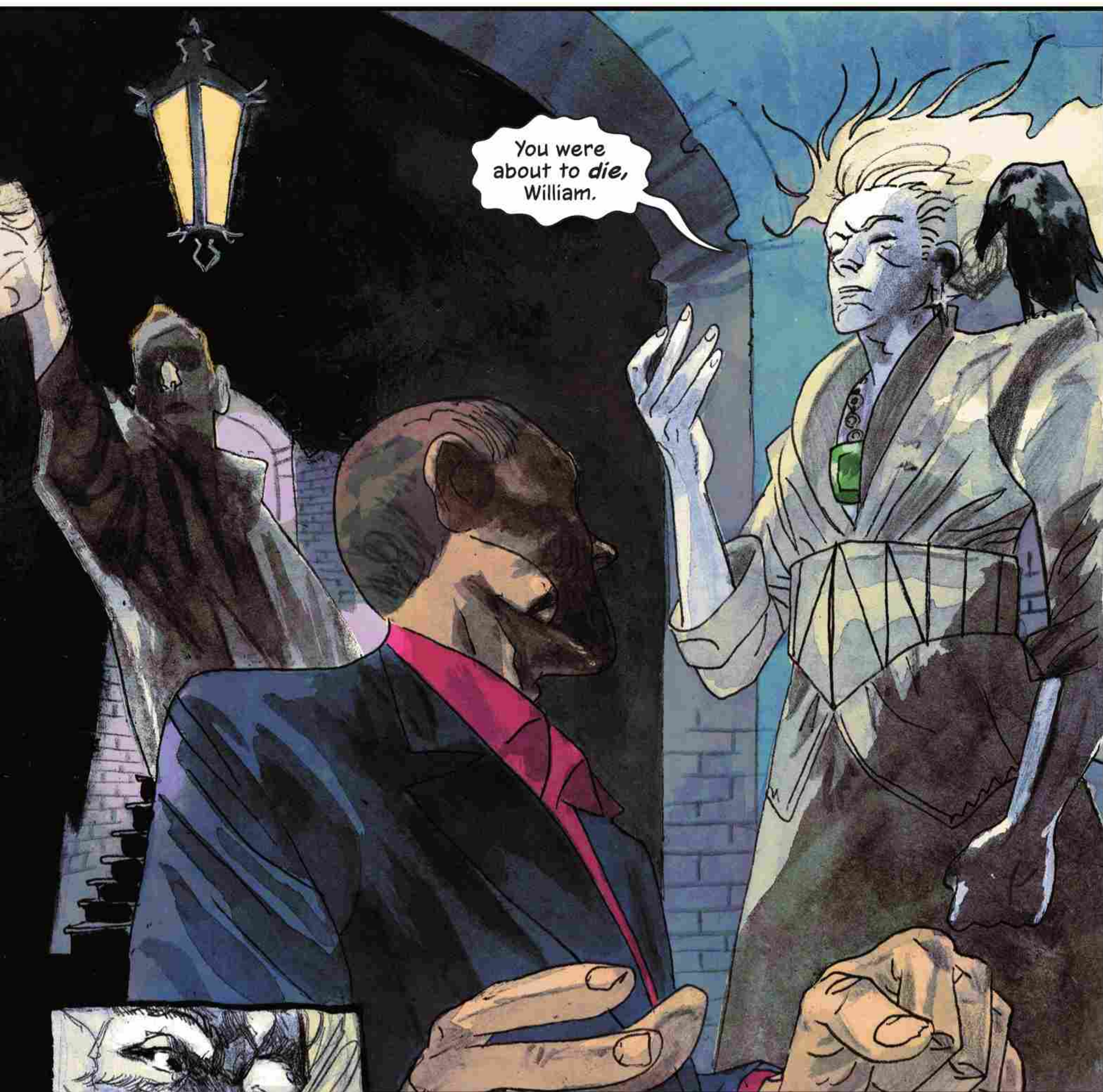
JAMES TYNION IV *writer*
LISANDRO ESTHERREN *artist*
PATRICIO DELPECHE *colors*
SIMON BOWLAND *lettering*

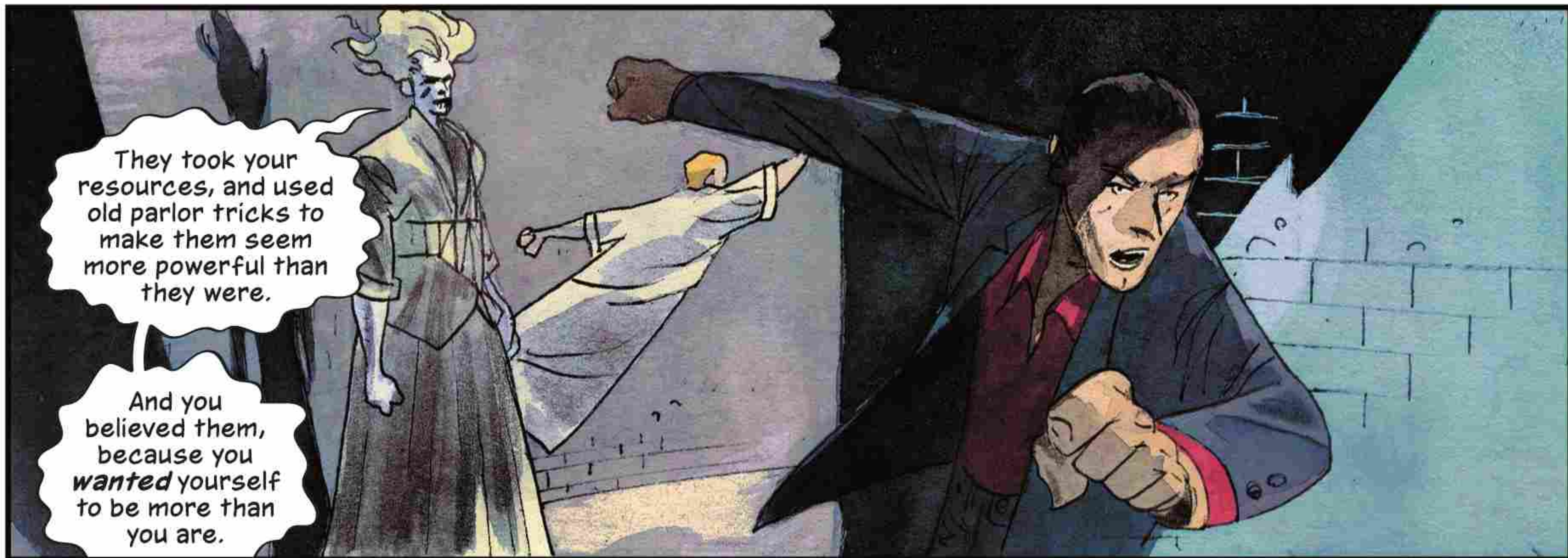
CHRIS CONROY *and* ANDREA SHEA
editors

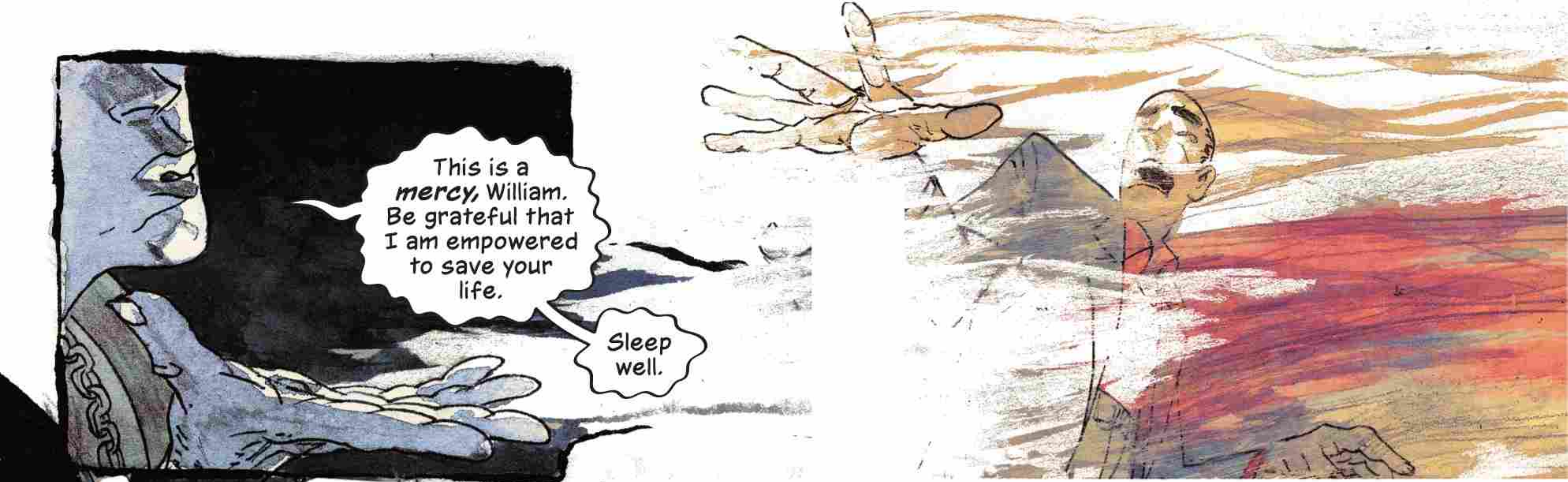
REIKO MURAKAMI *cover*
BECKY CLOONAN *variant cover*
MARCO SANTUCCI 1:25 *variant cover*

based on characters created by
NEIL GAIMAN, SAM KIETH, *and* MIKE DRINGENBERG
THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE *curated by* NEIL GAIMAN









This is a *mercy*, William. Be grateful that I am empowered to save your life.

Sleep well.



DIDJA REALLY HAVE TO SAVE HIS LIFE?

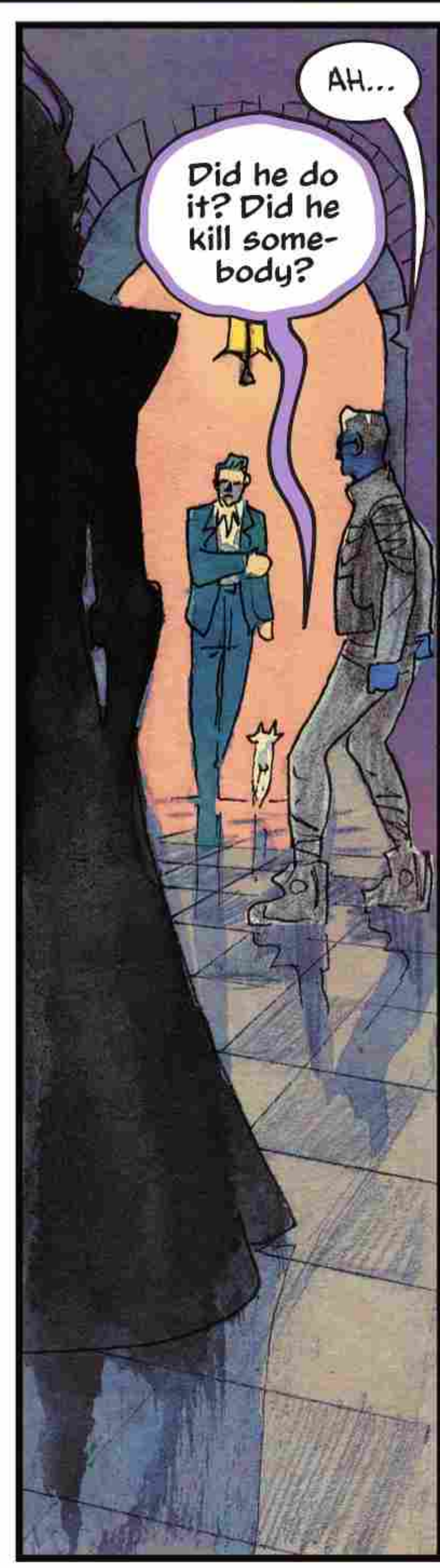
I told the girl that I would stop the Corinthian from killing without her permission, and now I have.



MY LORD.

I TRUST THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS DOING.

I understand very well. You should hope that Ms. Flynn understands as well as you.



AH...

Did he do it? Did he kill somebody?



I intervened in time. But there may still be cause for violence.

I would take a step back.



WHAT POWER DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE HERE?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM?



Yes. I'm afraid I know precisely what you are. And precisely what you have been *saying* you are.

And you do not have the power to create a place like this.



An isolated aspect of my power, existing within a very powerful demon...



Hello, Azazel.



DREAM LORD.



I was told you had gone *missing* during my brief absence a few years ago. I suppose I hoped that my previous aspect's *intent* for you had sunk in over the years.

But it does not appear that you *have* learned any better manners.

I AM NOT IN YOUR DOMAIN THIS TIME, DREAM KING.

I HONOR NO CODES OF HOSPITALITY. I'LL SUCK THE GUTS OUT YOUR EYEBALLS. MASH YOU INTO A LITTLE PASTE. THIS IS *MY* KINGDOM, DREAM KING. YOU HAVE NO POWER HERE. NO AUTHORITY.

Oh? I'm not so sure about that.



And there it is.

So much damage done with such a small piece of my power, lodged inside you all these years. But no longer.

YOU...YOU THINK THAT *MATTERS*?! THIS ENTIRE PLACE IS ME.

But what it was *built* on is gone.

What happens now?



HM. WE SHOULD GET YOU ALL OUT OF HERE.

You left us for dead.

YOU ALREADY DIED ONCE. IF YOU HAD DIED AGAIN, I SUPPOSED MAYBE THE DREAM LORD WOULD GIVE YOU A BODY YOU'D COMPLAIN LESS ABOUT.



And what about Max?

YOU BOTH SURVIVED. WHAT'S THE POINT OF BICKERING ABOUT HOW IT CAME TO HAPPEN?



KELLS...

ARE YOU...ARE YOU OKAY?

NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.



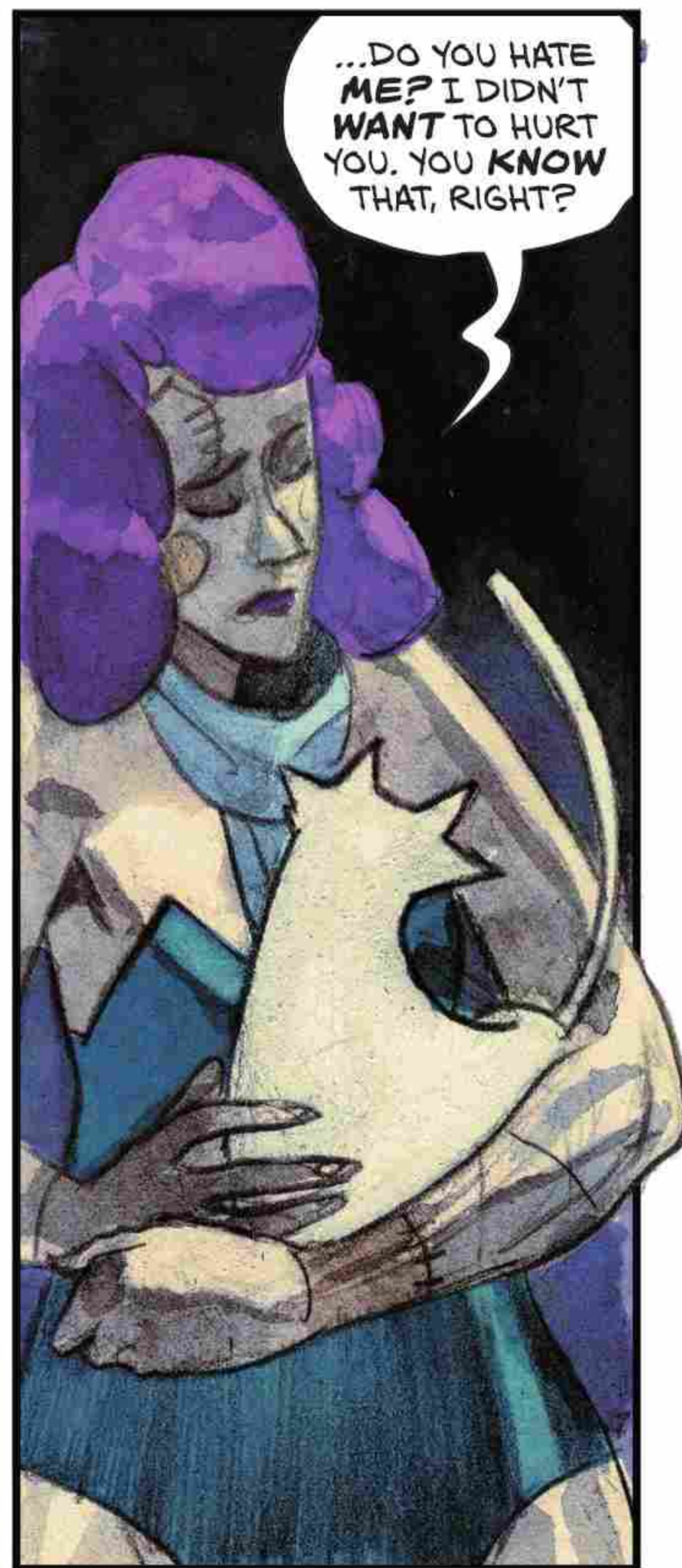
Hey, Kells...been a minute. But we should keep moving.



FLYNN?! YOU'RE A CAT?

WHY ARE YOU A CAT? YOU HATE CATS!

Yeah. I know.



...DO YOU HATE ME? I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?





MMMM.
AND WHAT
HAPPENED
THEN?



THAT'S SUCH A
SILLY QUESTION.
I THINK WE
WERE...**INSIDE**
OF THE TEETH
GUY?

YEAH. WE
WERE INSIDE OF HIM. I
THINK THE WHOLE **CLUB**
WAS INSIDE OF HIM. IT'S
SO CREEPY TO THINK,
BUT THAT'S WHAT
THEY SAID.

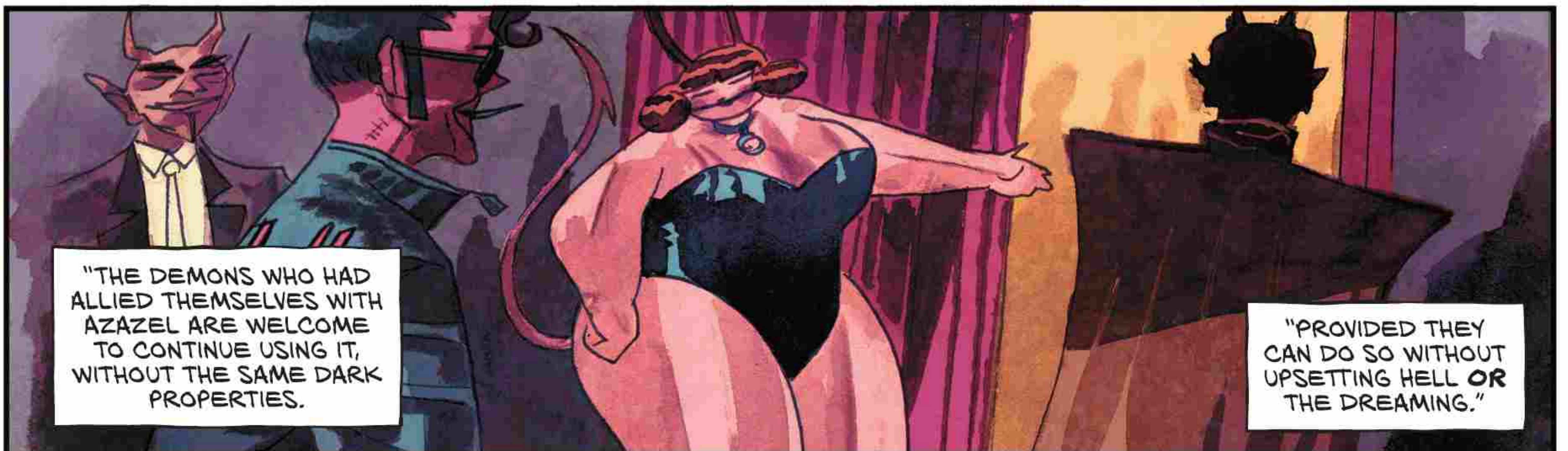


AZAZEL TRIED TO
EAT OUR MASTER.
BUT IT DIDN'T
WORK.

IT WAS UNWISE
OF HIM TO USE DREAM
SAND TO BUILD HIS CLUB.
THE DREAM LORD WAS
EFFECTIVELY ABLE TO
TURN HIM INSIDE-
OUT...



"...THE KING OF
PAIN PUSHED INTO
THE REAL WORLD.



"THE DEMONS WHO HAD
ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH
AZAZEL ARE WELCOME
TO CONTINUE USING IT,
WITHOUT THE SAME DARK
PROPERTIES.

"PROVIDED THEY
CAN DO SO WITHOUT
UPSETTING HELL OR
THE DREAMING."



AND
AZAZEL....?

Has been
returned to my trunk.
Though the creature
that believes itself
to be an angel managed
to slip away
again.



MY
LORD.



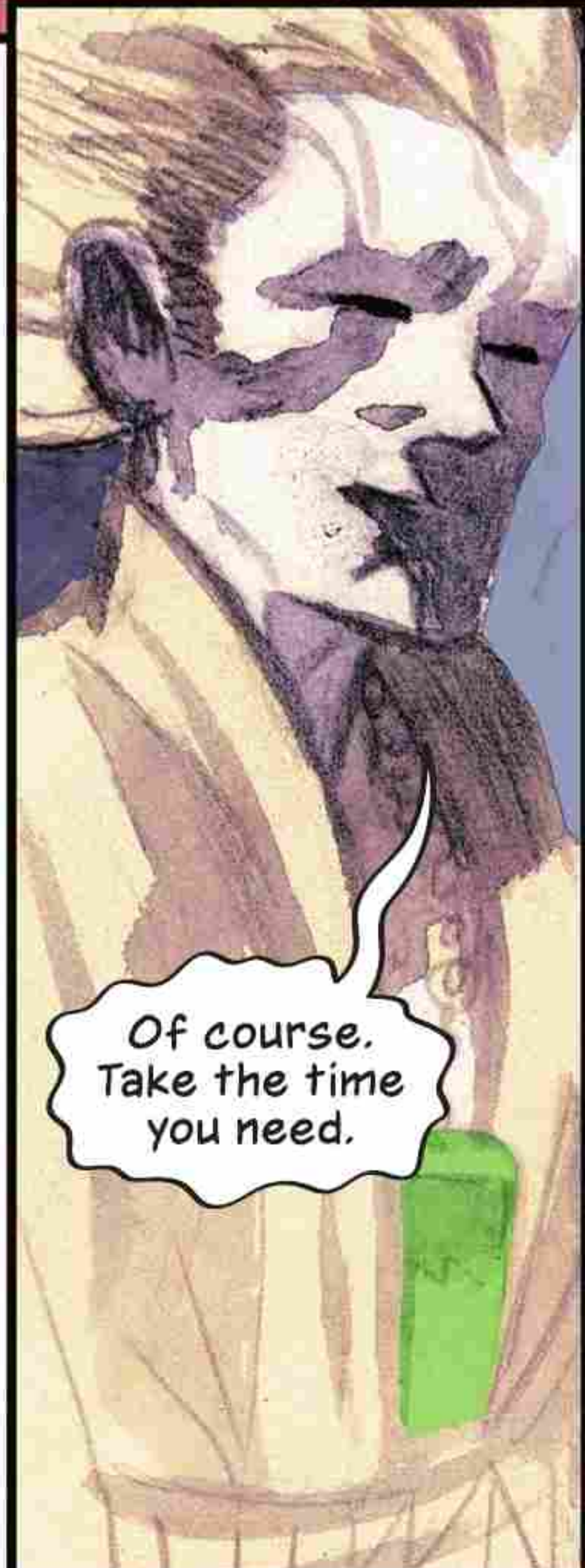
Thank you for
looking after my
guests, Lucien.

Have
you made a
decision?



I DON'T
KNOW. CAN WE
HAVE A NIGHT
OR TWO?

WE NEED
TO TALK.



Of course.
Take the time
you need.



Corinthian.
A word.

Flynn.
You'd better
come as
well.



Once every generation or so, there is a *vortex*. If left unchecked, it risks the destruction of both the waking world and the Dreaming.

What is happening now is following a similar pattern, but *inverted*.

Just by walking through the waking world, you've pulled very dangerous forces together, Flynn.

Myself included. And that *is* interesting.



But twice now I have been forced to intercede *directly*. It's become clear to me that one of my siblings is trying to force my hand again.

I won't simply play along. It is too dangerous. So this *investigation* is over.

But... we didn't even *find* anything.

We're no closer to knowing what the Smiling Man is. A nightmare not born of the Dreaming...?



It's over, Flynn.



You may reside here in the Dreaming as long as you wish, but I won't allow you back into the waking world.



NO.

I DON'T *INTEND* TO STOP UNTIL I LEARN WHY THIS *THING* THAT IS NOT A NIGHTMARE HAS AN ECHO OF MY FACE.



I WANT TO KNOW.

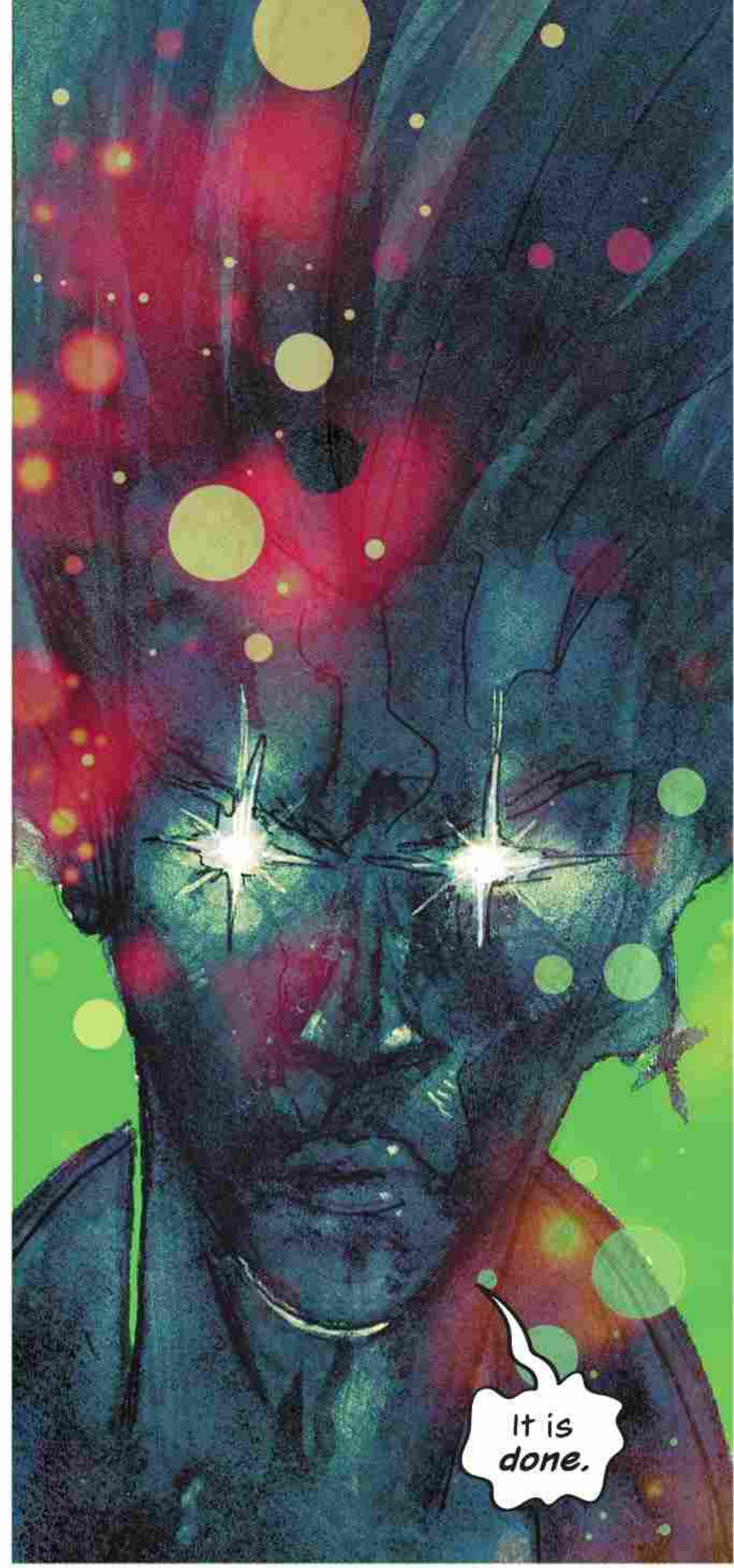


You desire little *else*. Which is the *problem*...



I'll simply *remove* the dream of this hunt from you, as I've done before. You won't remember any of this, and you will return to your *primary* functions.

DREAM LORD---



It is *done*.



Where... Where did he go?

Back to the shores of Nightmare. To haunt the minds of dreamers. I would steer clear of him, now that he won't remember you.

That's all? What about Teague? What about that angel? And that witch?

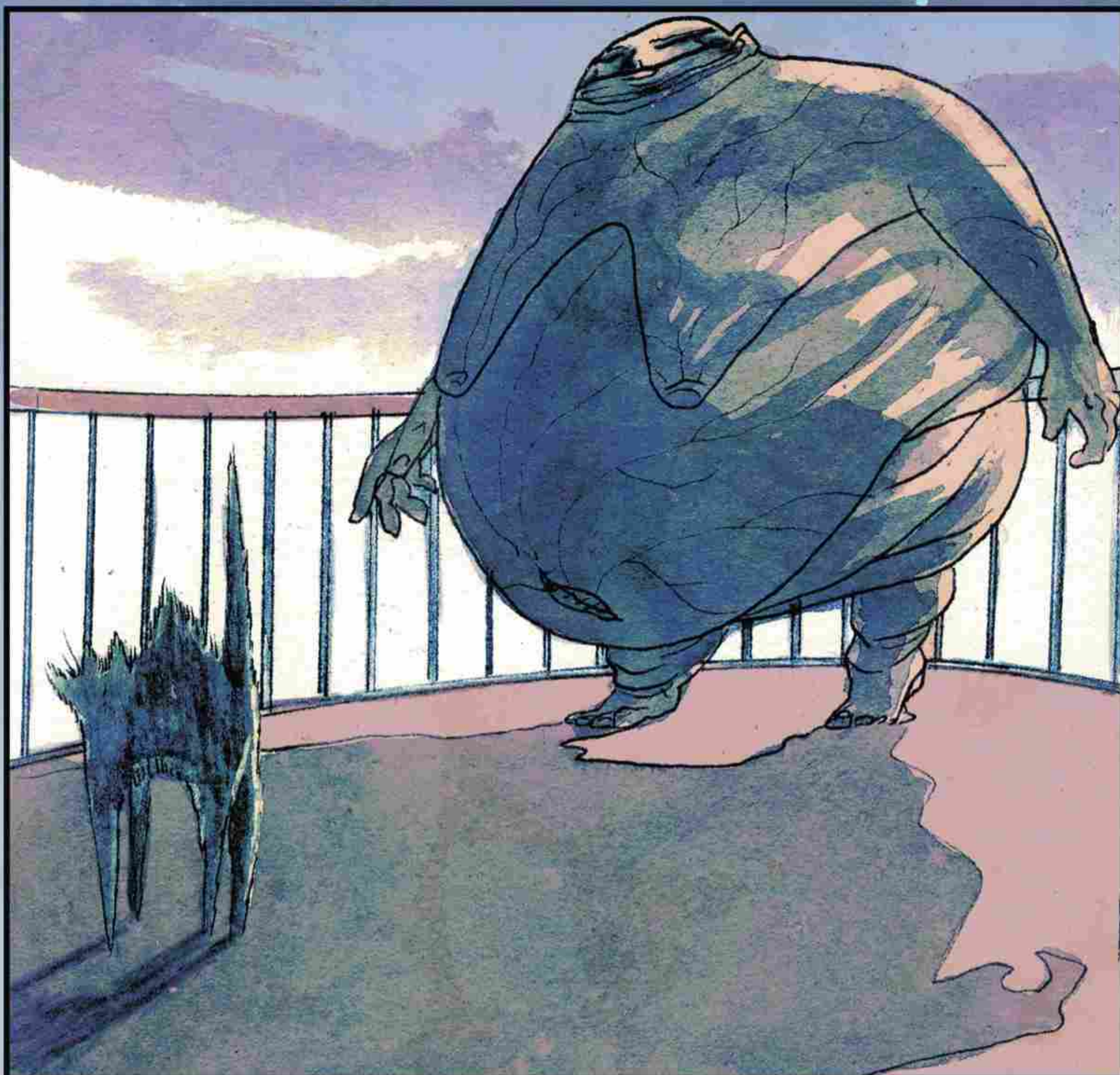
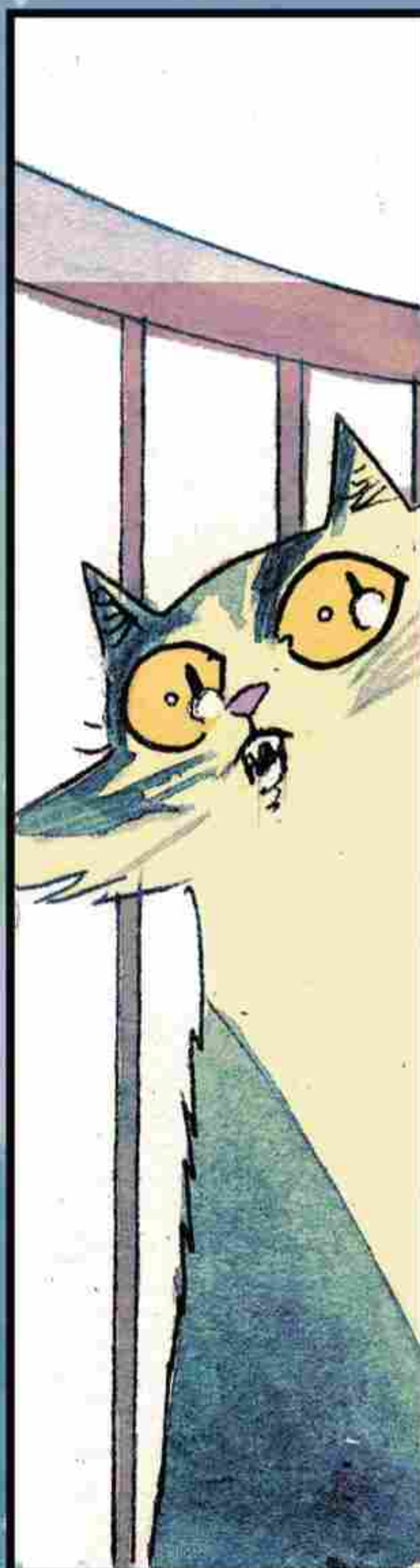
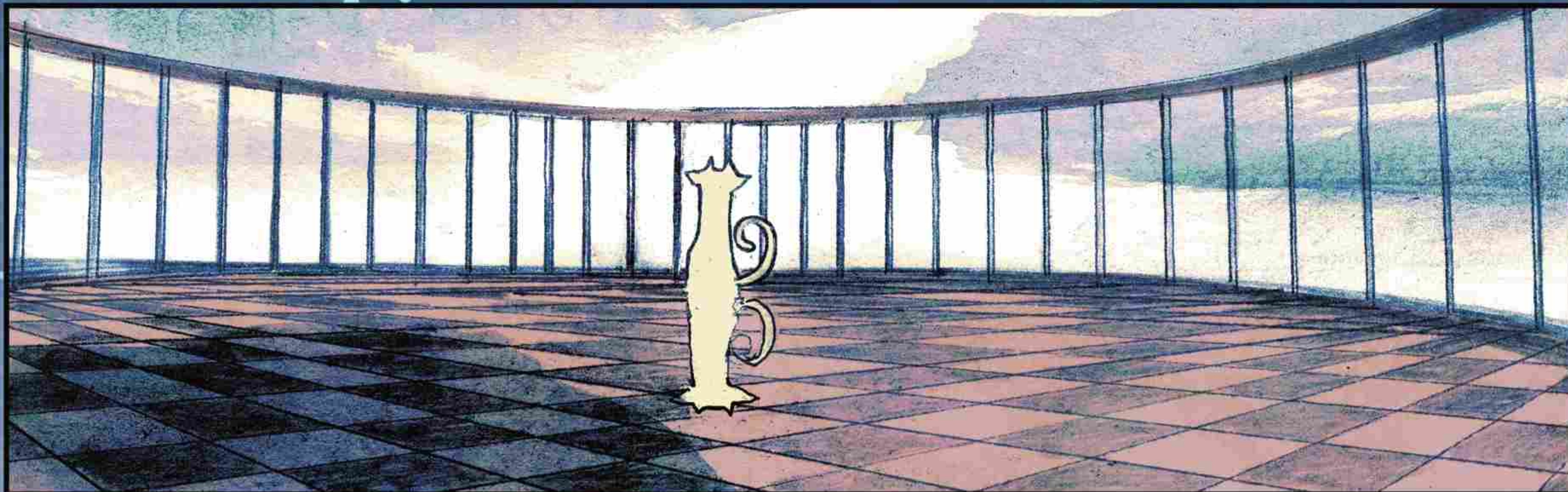


Why do I feel like I'm just a pawn in somebody else's game?

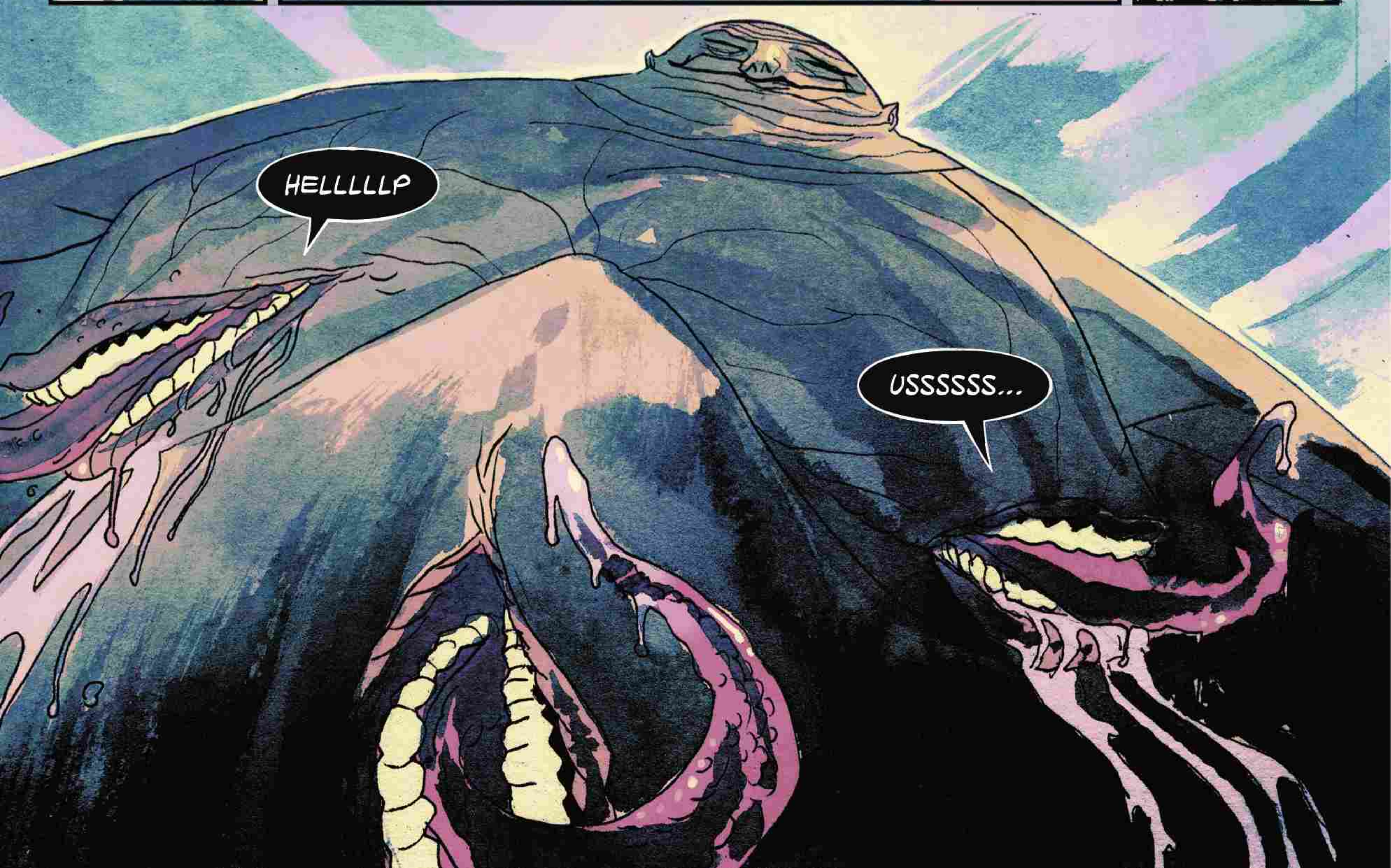
You *have* been, Flynn. And I'm terribly sorry for that. But the game is over for now. The pieces have been put back where they belong.



And the rest is not your concern any longer.



No. You can't
be here. You
don't *belong*
here--



HELLLLLP

USSSSSS...



I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE CHOICES HE GAVE US. I WISH I COULD JUST TAKE YOU BACK HOME...

AND GO BACK TO WORK FOR MR. TEAGUE? REALLY? YOU STILL WANT THAT?

I DON'T KNOW.

NO. I GUESS NOT.

I GUESS THAT WAS **ALL** KIND OF SILLY TO WANT.

HE SAID WE COULD HAVE ALL THE TIME WE WANTED, DIDN'T HE? THAT DREAM KING GUY?

WHAT IF WE **STAY** HERE A LITTLE WHILE? WE COULD GO ON DATES. **EXPLORE** IT ALL A LITTLE BIT.

AND THEN YOU CAN DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR LIFE.

AND I CAN DECIDE IF I WANT TO DIE. LIKE... **REALLY** DIE. GO TO THE OTHER SIDE, OR WHATEVER.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE.

THEN THESE HAD BETTER BE SOME GOOD DATES, OKAY?

OKAY.



THIS...THIS
IS ONLY A
SETBACK...



I DON'T *NEED* THE
DEMON. I DON'T
NEED TEAGUE. I CAN
DO THIS MYSELF.
I WILL FIND A
WAY.



HM.
AND YOU
MUST BE THE
"ANGEL."



I PRESUME
THAT YOUR
MESS HAS BEEN
CLEANED UP
FOR YOU.

YOU...
DON'T SEE ME.
BE...ON YOUR
WAY--

I'M AFRAID
I *DO* SEE YOU.
I SEE *RIGHT*
THROUGH
YOU.

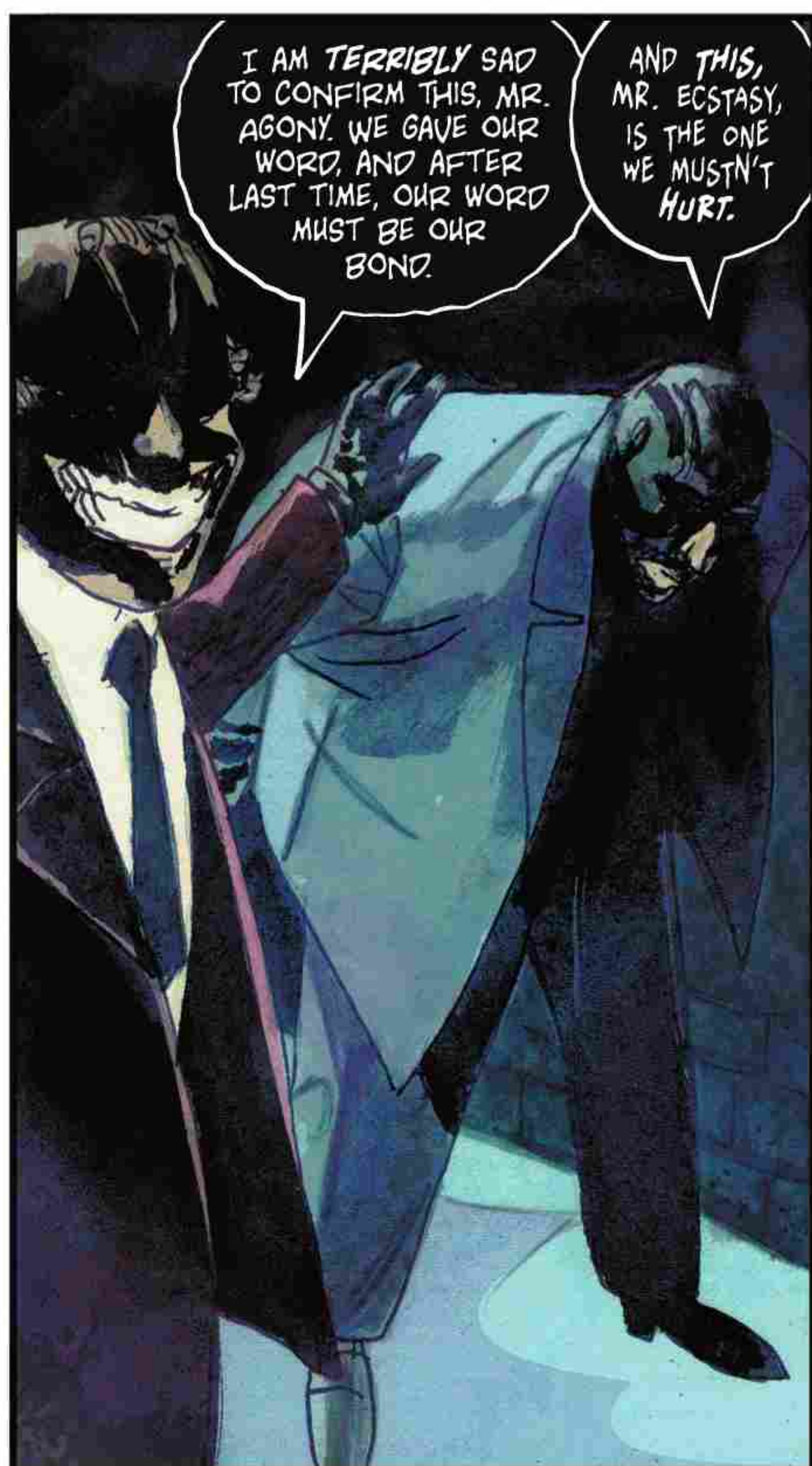


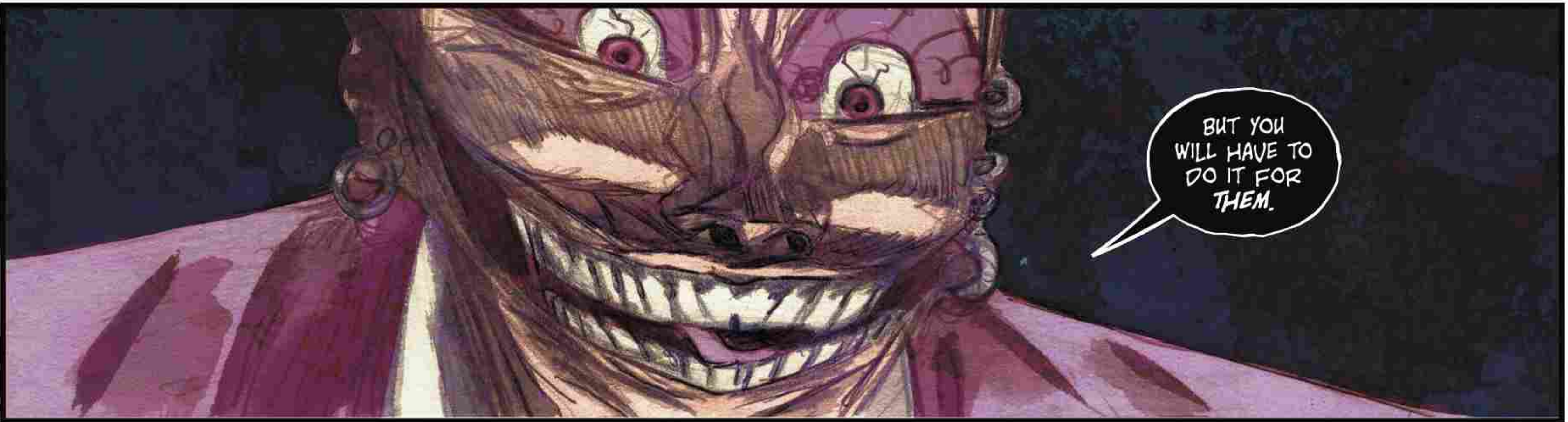
I'M FAIRLY
UPSET. I DON'T LIKE
BEING *DISMISSED*,
NOT WHEN I'VE BEEN
DRAGGED UNWITTINGLY
INTO SOMETHING
LARGER THAN
MYSELF.

I REQUIRE
ANSWERS, AND I
INTEND TO GET
THEM.



AND WOULDN'T
THAT BE LOVELY?
GETTING *EVERYTHING*
YOU EVER *WANTED*!
WHAT A *FANTASTIC*
NOTION.





BUT YOU
WILL HAVE TO
DO IT FOR
THEM.



WHAT IF I
SAY NO...WHAT
IF I WON'T BE
THAT THING'S
PAWN?



IN *THAT* UNHAPPY
CIRCUMSTANCE WE WOULD
HAVE TO HURT YOU
TERRIBLY.

BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND,
IF YOU LOOK INSIDE YOUR
HEART, THAT YOU'RE NOT
QUITE AS INTRANSIGENT
AS YOU PREVIOUSLY
BELIEVED.

I THINK
YOU'LL FIND YOU
WANT TO HELP
THEM.

THE NIGHTMARE
COUNTRY SAGA WILL
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IT'S THE AMAZONS VS. THE WORLD!

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new era
from writer
TOM KING
and artist
DANIEL SAMPERE
is just getting
started!

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GET
OUT!

TRAITOR

AMAZONS
GO HOME

CRIMINAL



DAWN OF
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